

MINDSET ON USE OF OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS: A STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The success of the use of Internet services and online services primarily depends on the prevailing mindset of the user. The same trend prevails in the case of online journals. In this study the mindset on the use of online journals among engineering professionals working in eight districts of Tamil Nadu was analyzed.

The study was carried out with the objective to identify the Awareness; source of awareness, place of access, usability, sufficiency, quality and satisfaction over the speed of access of open access journals. The questionnaires were distributed to the Library and Information Science professionals of 76 engineering institutions. Nearly 210 questionnaires were distributed. Out of 210 distributed 157 responded and the response rate works out to 74.76%.

Nearly 78.3% of the respondents have accessed the open access journals. Similarly, 60.4% of respondents have cited open access journals in their publications and 36.3% of them published articles in open access journals. Out of 157 respondents, 87 (55.4%) indicated that "through library" as their sources of awareness. It is followed by "Peers and Colleagues" (38, 24.2%) and "through guide" (32, 20.4%). 86 (54.8%) respondents indicated that they access in all three locations such as home, office, and library whereas "Library" (39, 24.8%) and "Home/Office" (32, 20.4%). Nearly 80% of respondents indicated the usability of open access journals as easy. Nearly 90% of respondents indicated little to highly satisfied with the sufficiency of open access journals. Nearly 75% of respondents indicated somewhat quality to very high quality of open access journals. Nearly 85% of respondents indicated somewhat fast to very fast towards the speed of access to open access journals.

In all, it seems that their existing mindset in use of open access journals among library professionals in Southern districts of Tamil Nadu.

KEYWORDS: *Open Access Journal, Mindset On Use, Quality and Usability, Sufficiency of Open Access Journal & Speed of Access*

Received: Oct 31, 2018; **Accepted:** Nov 21, 2018; **Published:** Dec 07, 2018; **Paper Id.:** IJCMSDEC20186

INTRODUCTION

Today every one of us communicates and share the information with each other through the internet. This has deeply impacted scientific research and academic publishing also which facilitate the research publications were disseminated through many venues, including social media sites, blogs, Twitter, and Open Access (OA) scholarly journals that are freely available to anyone with Internet access.

Service to the public, both corporate and service industries primarily depends on the mindset, especially in their use. The same trend prevails in the case of internet services, online services and products. The trend on the use of online journals has been analyzed in this paper.

OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS

Open Access Journals are scholarly journals. These journals are available online to users without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the Internet itself (Suber, 2006). The open access journals enhance the visibility. Open Access articles are downloaded and cited more frequently than articles from nonOAJs (Pandita, 2013 & Kousha, 2009), and they reach broader audiences. Importantly, OAJs serve developing countries and small or specialized research institutions and corporations to have access to all Open Access articles (Ezema, 2011; Nwagwu, 2013).

Since its inception, usage of OAJs has become popular in universities and research institutes across the world where the number of articles published in OAJs increased from 40,000 in 2004 to 260,000 in 2014 (Ware & Mobe, 2015). However, the global trend indicates unevenness in access to and usage of OAJs. Developed countries are leading in the exploitation of OAJs compared to underdeveloped countries, despite its existence of more than a decade. Most African countries exhibit a slow gain in the usage of OAJs which hinders the circulation of African publications (Nwagwu, 2013; Pandita, 2013). The open access journals are of two types such as Gold Open Access and Green Open Access

Some journals contain only open access articles whereas others, known as hybrid journals, may offer a mix of open and subscription content. In both cases, there are costs associated with publishing which need to be met. These costs, usually paid through article processing charges, may be paid by authors or subsidized by a third party such as a funding council. The article is made available immediately. This route is known as *gold open access*.

Green open access involves publishing in a traditional subscription journal as usual, but articles are also 'self-archived' in a repository (institutional or external subject-based repository) and usually made available after an embargo period set by the publisher. No charges are paid. Today there exist 12000 open access journals (35 lakhs articles) covering all areas of science, technology, medicine, social science and humanities from 128 countries.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Many studies have been carried out on awareness and use of open access journals. Bartle and Walton, (1996) argue that most researchers are still reluctant to the use of Open Access Journals; one of the major reasons for this is that they are not aware of what is available to them and what the services are capable of doing. In a similar fashion, the results of the user survey, at the University of Hong Kong library (Woo, 2005; cited by Korobili, Tilikidou & Delistarou 2005) shows that 68.8 percent of the respondents prefer to use open access journals compared to 31.2 percent who prefer to use printed journals. In Nigeria, studies such as those of Ureighe, Oroke, and Ekruyota (2006) found that access to and use open access resources is still low, the factors that may be accountable for the low use may be awareness and attitude of researchers.

Okoye, & Ejikeme, (2010) indicated that with open access, articles can be accessed online free of charge. He identified inadequate skills to navigate the internet, unstable power supply, unavailability of internet facilities, the permanence of open access movement due to unstable financial support, lack of knowledge of the existence of open access journals on the internet as constraints to the use of open access journals by researchers.

Studies by Dulle, Minish-Majanja & Cloete, 2010; Lwoga & Questier (2014; Twaakyondo, 2013) identified low attitude and lack of trust in OAJs detriment OAJs behavior. Increased visibility, citation advantage, and high journal

impacts are some of the benefits of publishing in Open Access (Kenneway, 2011; Suber, 2008; 2012; 2013). These are highly regarded in academic circles. Majority of authors that have published in high impact journals have not been enjoying the much-expected visibility and citations advantage as a result of licensing fees and other restrictions placed on subscription and access.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The major objectives of the study were

- To identify the Awareness in open access journals.
- To know the Sources of awareness about open access journals
- To find out the Place of access to these open access journals.
- To identify the level of Usability of these open access journals
- To know the Sufficiency of the open access journals
- To know the Quality of open access journals
- To identify the satisfaction over Speed of Access of open access journals.

DATA COLLECTION

The questionnaires were distributed to the Library and Information Science professionals of 76 engineering institutions. Nearly 210 questionnaires were distributed. Out of 210 distributed 157 responded. The response rate works out to 74.76%.

DEMOGRAPHIC DETAILS

The demographic details of the respondents were shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Demographic Details

S. No	Description	Respondents	
District			
1	Ariyalur	10	6.4%
2	Cuddalore	16	10.2%
3	Nagapattinam	16	10.2%
4	Perambalur	16	10.2%
5	Thanjavour	25	15.9%
6	Thiruvannamalai	24	15.3%
7	Thiruvarur	6	3.8%
8	Villupuram	44	28.0%
Gender			
1	Male	94	59.9%
2	Female	63	40.1%
Designation			
1	Librarian	121	77.1%
2	Asst. Librarian	18	11.45%
3	Others	18	11.45%
Overall			
	Total	157	100.0%

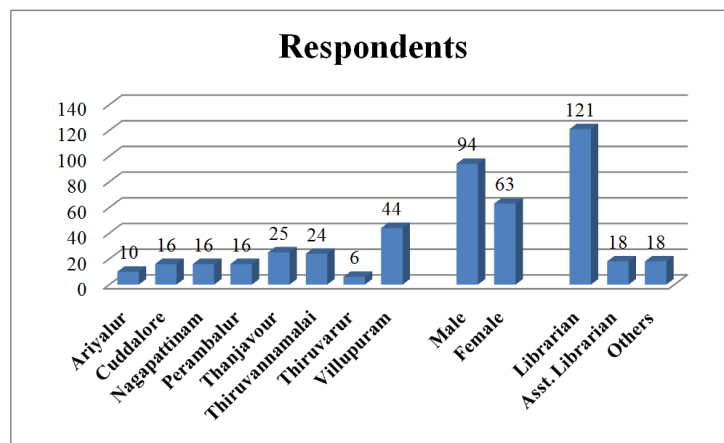


Figure 1: Demographic Details

DATA ANALYSIS

The use of open access journals was analyzed based on

- Awareness
- Sources of awareness
- Place of access
- Usability
- Sufficiency
- Quality
- Speed of Access

Awareness on Open Access Journals

Awareness of open access journal has been ascertained based on access, cite and publish. The same has been shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Awareness of Open Access

S. No	Description	No. of Persons	Percent
1	Access	123	78.3
2	Cited	109	60.4
3	Published	57	36.3

Nearly 78.3% of the respondent have accessed the open access journals. Similarly, 60.4% of respondents have cited open access journals in their publications. It is quite interesting to note that 36.3% of used published articles in open access journals.

The study has further been extended to the district, gender, and designation. The same has been shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Awareness of Open Access Vs District, Gender, Designation

S. No	Description	Access	%	Cited	%	Published	%	Total	%
District									
1	Ariyalur	8	80.0%	7	70.0%	3	30.0%	10	100.0%
2	Cuddalore	12	75.0%	11	68.8%	6	37.5%	16	100.0%
3	Nagapattinam	13	81.3%	11	68.8%	5	31.3%	16	100.0%
4	Perambalur	13	81.3%	12	75.0%	6	37.5%	16	100.0%
5	Thanjavur	18	72.0%	16	64.0%	9	36.0%	25	100.0%
6	Tiruvannamalai	20	83.3%	17	70.8%	8	33.3%	24	100.0%
7	Tiruvarur	3	50.0%	3	50.0%	4	66.7%	6	100.0%
8	Villupuram	36	81.8%	32	72.7%	16	36.4%	44	100.0%
Gender									
1	Male	71	75.5%	62	66.0%	33	35.1%	94	100.0%
2	Female	52	82.5%	47	74.6%	24	38.1%	63	100.0%
Designation									
1	Librarian	93	76.9%	83	68.6%	44	36.4%	121	100.0%
2	Asst. Librarian	16	88.9%	13	72.2%	7	38.9%	18	100.0%
3	Others	14	77.8%	13	72.2%	6	33.3%	18	100.0%
Overall									
	Total	123	78.3%	109	69.4%	57	36.3%	157	100.0%

In the case of access, the percentage of access to open access journal ranges between 50 to 81.8%. Ariyalur (80.0%), Nagapattinam (81.3%), Perambalur (81.3%), Tiruvannamalai (83.3%) and Villupuram (81.8%) respondents access more open access journals. Tiruvarur (50%) respondents have the least access in open access journal. Female (82.5%) access more open access journal than male (75.5%). Asst. Librarian (88.9%) access more open access journals than other library professionals (77.8%) and Librarians (76.9%)

In relation to the citation, the percentage of citation of open access journal ranges between 50 to 75%. Ariyalur (70.0%), Perambalur (75.0%), Tiruvannamalai (70.8%) and Villupuram (72.7%) respondents cite more open access journals. Tiruvarur (50%) respondents have least cited in open access journal. Female (74.6%) cite more open access journal than male (66.0%). Both Asst. Librarian (72.2%) and other library professionals (72.2%) cite more open access journals than the Librarians (68.6%).

The publication of papers in open access journal ranges between 30 to 66.7%. Tiruvarur has a maximum of 66.7% respondents publish a paper in Open access journals. It is followed by Cuddalore and Perambalur (37.5%); Villupuram (36.4%); Thanjavur (36.0%) and Tiruvannamalai (33.3%). Ariyalur (30%) respondents have least published in open access journal. Female (38.1%) publish their papers more open access journal than male (35.1%). Asst. Librarian (38.9%) publish more papers in open access journals than Librarians (36.4%) and other library professionals (33.3%).

Sources of Awareness of Open Access Journals

The source of awareness by the respondents was analyzed based on “Through Library”; “Through Guide” and “Peers and Colleagues”. The responses were shown in Table 4

Table 4: Sources of Awareness of Open Access Journals

S. No.	Description	No. of Persons	Percent
1	Through Library	87	55.4%
2	Through Guide	32	20.4%
3	Peers and Colleagues	38	24.2%
	Total	157	100.00%

Out of 157 respondents, 87 (55.4%) indicated that “through library” as their sources of awareness. It is followed by “Peers and Colleagues” (38, 24.2%) and “through guide” (32, 20.4%).

The study has further been extended to the district, gender, and designation. The same has been shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Source of Awareness of Open Access Journals vs District, Gender, Designation

S. No	Description	Through Library	%	Through Guide	%	Peers and Colleagues	%	Total	%
District									
1	Ariyalur	8	80.0%	2	20.0%	0	.0%	10	100.0%
2	Cuddalore	7	43.8%	4	25.0%	5	31.3%	16	100.0%
3	Nagapattinam	7	43.8%	4	25.0%	5	31.3%	16	100.0%
4	Perambalur	9	56.3%	2	12.5%	5	31.3%	16	100.0%
5	Thanjavur	16	64.0%	6	24.0%	3	12.0%	25	100.0%
6	Tiruvannamalai	15	62.5%	4	16.7%	5	20.8%	24	100.0%
7	Tiruvarur	3	50.0%	1	16.7%	2	33.3%	6	100.0%
8	Villupuram	22	50.0%	9	20.5%	13	29.5%	44	100.0%
Gender									
1	Male	53	56.4%	18	19.1%	23	24.5%	94	100.0%
2	Female	34	54.0%	14	22.2%	15	23.8%	63	100.0%
Designation									
1	Librarian	66	54.5%	25	20.7%	30	24.8%	121	100.0%
2	Asst. Librarian	12	66.7%	3	16.7%	3	16.7%	18	100.0%
3	Others	9	50.0%	4	22.2%	5	27.8%	18	100.0%
Overall									
	Total	87	55.4%	32	20.4%	38	24.2%	157	100.0%

In the case of the source of awareness on open access journals among districts, nearly 55.4% indicated through the library. The percentage ranges from 50 to 80%. Ariyalur (80.0%), Thanjavur (64%) and Tiruvannamalai (62.5%) were indicated through the library. Tiruvarur and Villupuram (50%) respondents have indicated least. Male (56.4%) indicated the source of information as a library than female (54.0%). Asst. Librarian (66.7%) indicated source through the library. It is followed by Librarians (54.5%) and other library professionals (50.0%).

In the case of the source through the guide, the percentage ranges between 12.5 to 25%. Cuddalore and Nagapattinam (50.0%), Thanjavur (24.0%) and Villupuram (20.5%) respondents indicated through the guide. Perambalur (12.5%) respondents have least opted for through guide. 22.2% of female opted for through guide than male (19.1%). 22.2% of other library professionals indicated through the guide. It is followed by librarians (20.7%) and Asst. Librarians (22.2%)

24.2% of respondents indicated Peers and colleagues as a source of awareness for open access journals. In the case districts, the percentage ranges between 0 to 33.3%. A maximum of 33.3% respondents of Tiruvarur indicated Peers and colleagues as source of inspiration for open access journals. Nearly 31.3% of respondents of Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, and Perambalur indicated peers and colleagues were the inspiration on open access journals. Thanjavur (12.4%) respondents have least opted for peer and colleagues. 24.5% of male opted for peer and colleagues than male (23.8%). 27.8% of other library professionals indicated peer and colleagues. It is followed by librarians (24.8%) and Asst. Librarians (16.7%).

Place of Access of Open Access Journals

The place of access to open access journals by the respondents was analyzed based on “Home/Office”; “Library” and “All three locations”. The responses were shown in Table 6

Table 6: Place of Access of Open Access Journals

S. No	Description	No. of Persons	Percent
1	Home/Office	32	20.4%
2	Library	39	24.8%
3	All three locations	86	54.8%
	Total	157	100.00%

86 (54.8%) respondents indicated that they access in all three locations. It is followed by “Library” (39, 24.8%) and “Home/Office” (32, 20.4%).

The study has further been extended to the district, gender, and designation. The same has been shown in Table 7.

Table 7: Place of Access of Open Access Journals Vs District, Gender, Designation

S. No	Description	Home/Office		Library		All Three Locations		Total	%
		No. of Users	%	No. of Users	%	No. of Users	%		
District									
1	Ariyalur	2	20.0%	4	40.0%	4	40.0%	10	100.0%
2	Cuddalore	4	25.0%	3	18.8%	9	56.3%	16	100.0%
3	Nagapattinam	2	12.5%	3	18.8%	11	68.8%	16	100.0%
4	Perambalur	4	25.0%	4	25.0%	8	50.0%	16	100.0%
5	Thanjavur	6	24.0%	7	28.0%	12	48.0%	25	100.0%
6	Tiruvannamalai	4	16.7%	7	29.2%	13	54.2%	24	100.0%
7	Tiruvarur	2	33.3%	0	.0%	4	66.7%	6	100.0%
8	Villupuram	8	18.2%	11	25.0%	25	56.8%	44	100.0%
Gender									
1	Male	22	23.4%	21	22.3%	51	54.3%	94	100.0%
2	Female	10	15.9%	18	28.6%	35	55.6%	63	100.0%
Designation									
1	Librarian	25	20.7%	31	25.6%	65	53.7%	121	100.0%
2	Asst. Librarian	3	16.7%	5	27.8%	10	55.6%	18	100.0%
3	Others	4	22.2%	3	16.7%	11	61.1%	18	100.0%
Overall									
	Total	32	20.4%	39	24.8%	86	54.8%	157	100.0%

In the case of home/office as the place of access to open access journal, the percentage ranges between 12.5 to 33.3%. Tiruvarur (33.3%), Cuddalore and Nagapattinam (25.0%), Thanjavur (24.0%) and Ariyalur (20.0%) respondents access more from home/office. Nagapattinam (12.5%) respondents have the least access from home/office. Male (23.4%) access more open access journal from home/office than female (15.9%). Other library professionals (22.2%) access more open access journals in home/office than Librarians (20.7%) and Asst. Librarians (16.7%).

Nearly 0 to 40% of respondents in district indicated Library as a place of access of open access journal. Ariyalur (40.0%), Perambalur (25.0%), Thanjavur (28.0%), Tiruvannamalai (29.2%) and Villupuram (25.0%) respondents indicated library as a place of access for open access journals. None of the respondents of Tiruvarur has used the library as place of access to open access journal. Female (28.6%) use library more for accessing open access journal than male (22.3%). Asst. Librarian (27.8%) use the library for accessing open access journal than librarians (25.6%) and other library professionals (16.7%).

Nearly 40% to 68.8% of respondents use all the three locations for accessing open access journals. Nagapattinam has a maximum of 68.8% respondents. It is followed by Tiruvarur (66.7%), Villupuram (56.8%); Cuddalore (56.3%), Tiruvannamalai (54.2%). and Perambalur (50%). Thanjavur (48%) and Ariyalur (40%) respondents have least used all three locations for accessing the open access journal. Female (55.6%) use all three locations for accessing more open access journal than male (54.3%). Other library professionals (61.1%) use all three locations for accessing the open access journals than Asst. Librarian (55.6%) and Librarians (53.7%).

Usability of OAJ Journals

The respondent's opinion on usability of open access journals were obtained in a five-point scale such as very difficult, difficult, somewhat easy, easy and very easy and the same has been analyzed. The responses were shown in Table 8.

Table 8: Usability of Open Access Journals

S. No	Description	Frequency	Percent
1	Very difficult	8	5.1
2	Difficult	24	15.3
3	Somewhat easy	25	15.9
4	Easy	47	29.9
5	Very Easy	53	33.8
	Total	157	100.0

Nearly 80% of respondents indicated the usability of open access journals as easy. 33.8% of respondents indicated very easy. It is followed by easy (29.9%) and somewhat easy (15.9%). Only 20.4% indicated usability as difficult (15.3%) and very difficult (5.1%).

The study has further been extended to the district, gender, and designation. The same has been shown in Table 9.

Table 9: Usability of Open Access Journals Vs District, Gender, Designation

S. No	Description	Very Difficult		Difficult		Somewhat Easy		Easy		Very Easy		Total	
District													
1	Ariyalur	1	10.0%	2	20.0%	1	10.0%	3	30.0%	3	30.0%	10	100.0%
2	Cuddalore	1	6.3%	2	12.5%	3	18.8%	5	31.3%	5	31.3%	16	100.0%
3	Nagapattinam	0	.0%	2	12.5%	2	12.5%	5	31.3%	7	43.8%	16	100.0%
4	Perambalur	1	6.3%	2	12.5%	3	18.8%	5	31.3%	5	31.3%	16	100.0%
5	Thanjavur	2	8.0%	5	20.0%	4	16.0%	6	24.0%	8	32.0%	25	100.0%
6	Tiruvannamalai	1	4.2%	4	16.7%	3	12.5%	7	29.2%	9	37.5%	24	100.0%
7	Tiruvarur	0	.0%	1	16.7%	2	33.3%	2	33.3%	1	16.7%	6	100.0%
8	Villupuram	2	4.5%	6	13.6%	7	15.9%	14	31.8%	15	34.1%	44	100.0%
Gender													
1	Male	5	5.3%	14	14.9%	15	16.0%	26	27.7%	34	36.2%	94	100.0%
2	Female	3	4.8%	10	15.9%	10	15.9%	21	33.3%	19	30.2%	63	100.0%
Designation													
1	Librarian	6	5.0%	17	14.0%	20	16.5%	37	30.6%	41	33.9%	121	100.0%
2	Asst. Librarian	1	5.6%	4	22.2%	3	16.7%	5	27.8%	5	27.8%	18	100.0%
3	Others	1	5.6%	3	16.7%	2	11.1%	5	27.8%	7	38.9%	18	100.0%
Overall													
	Total	8	5.1%	24	15.3%	25	15.9%	47	29.9%	53	33.8%	157	100.0%

30% to 44% of the respondents indicated the usability of open access journals as very easy. Among them, 43.8% of Nagapattinam respondents indicated very easy. It is followed by Tiruvannamalai (37.5%), Villupuram (34.1%) and

Thanjavur (32%). Similarly, 36.2% of male indicated very easy than female (30.2%). 38.9% of other library professionals indicated very easy. It is followed by Librarian (33.9%) and Asst. Librarians (27.8%)

Sufficient Journals

The respondent's opinion on Sufficiency of open access journals were obtained in a five-point scale such as not at all, little, average, satisfied and highly satisfied and the same has been analyzed. The responses were shown in Table 10.

Table 10: Sufficiency of Open Access Journals

S. No	Description	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	Not at all	16	10.2	10.2
2	Little	23	14.6	24.8
3	Average	32	20.4	45.2
4	Satisfied	40	25.5	70.7
5	Highly Satisfied	46	29.3	100.0
	Total	157	100.0	

Nearly 90% of respondents indicated little too highly satisfied with the sufficiency of open access journals. 29.3% of respondents highly satisfied with open access journals. It is followed by satisfied (25.5%), average (20.4%) and little (24.8%). Only 10.2% indicated not at all sufficient.

The study has further been extended to the district, gender, and designation. The same has been shown in Table 11.

Table 11: Sufficiency of Open Access Journals Vs District, Gender, Designation

S. No	Description	Not at All		Little		Average		Satisfied		Highly Satisfied		Total	
District													
1	Ariyalur	1	10.0%	2	20.0%	2	20.0%	2	20.0%	3	30.0%	10	100.0%
2	Cuddalore	2	12.5%	3	18.8%	3	18.8%	4	25.0%	4	25.0%	16	100.0%
3	Nagapattinam	2	12.5%	1	6.3%	3	18.8%	4	25.0%	6	37.5%	16	100.0%
4	Perambalur	1	6.3%	3	18.8%	4	25.0%	5	31.3%	3	18.8%	16	100.0%
5	Thanjavur	3	12.0%	4	16.0%	4	16.0%	5	20.0%	9	36.0%	25	100.0%
6	Tiruvannamalai	2	8.3%	3	12.5%	5	20.8%	6	25.0%	8	33.3%	24	100.0%
7	Tiruvarur	1	16.7%	0	.0%	2	33.3%	2	33.3%	1	16.7%	6	100.0%
8	Villupuram	4	9.1%	7	15.9%	9	20.5%	12	27.3%	12	27.3%	44	100.0%
Gender													
1	Male	10	10.6%	12	12.8%	18	19.1%	23	24.5%	31	33.0%	94	100.0%
2	Female	6	9.5%	11	17.5%	14	22.2%	17	27.0%	15	23.8%	63	100.0%
Designation													
1	Librarian	12	9.9%	16	13.2%	25	20.7%	32	26.4%	36	29.8%	121	100.0%
2	Asst. Librarian	2	11.1%	4	22.2%	4	22.2%	4	22.2%	4	22.2%	18	100.0%
3	Others	2	11.1%	3	16.7%	3	16.7%	4	22.2%	6	33.3%	18	100.0%
Overall													
	Total	16	10.2%	23	14.6%	32	20.4%	40	25.5%	46	29.3%	157	100.0%

16.7% to 36% of the respondents were highly satisfied with sufficient open access journals. Similarly 20% to 33.3% indicated satisfied and 16% to 33.3% as average. Not at all sufficient ranges between 6.3% and 16.7%. Among them, 37.5% of Nagapattinam respondents indicated Highly satisfied. It is followed by Thanjavur (36%), Tiruvannamalai (33.3%) and Ariyalur (30%). Similarly, 33.3% of male indicated highly satisfied than female (23.8%). 33.3% of other library professionals indicated highly satisfied. It is followed by Librarian (29.8%) and Asst. Librarians (22.2%).

Quality of Open Access Journals

The respondent's opinion on the quality of open access journals were obtained in a five-point scale such as Very poor quality, Poor quality, somewhat quality, high quality, and very high quality and the same has been analyzed. The responses were shown in Table 12.

Table 12: Quality of OAJ Articles

S. No	Description	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	Very Poor Quality	24	15.3	15.3
2	Poor Quality	15	9.6	24.8
3	Somewhat Quality	40	25.5	50.3
4	High Quality	47	29.9	80.3
5	Very High Quality	31	19.7	100.0
Total		157	100.0	

Nearly 75% of respondents indicated somewhat quality to very high quality of open access journals. 19.7% of respondents indicated very high quality to open access journals. It is followed by high quality (29.9%) and somewhat quality (25.5%). Only 24.8% indicated very poor quality to poor quality.

The study has further been extended to the district, gender, and designation. The same has been shown in Table 13.

Table 13: Quality of Open Access Journals Vs District, Gender, Designation

S. No	Description	Very Poor Quality		Poor Quality		Somewhat High Quality		High Quality		Very High Quality		Total	
District													
1	Ariyalur	2	20.0%	1	10.0%	3	30.0%	3	30.0%	1	10.0%	10	100.0%
2	Cuddalore	3	18.8%	2	12.5%	3	18.8%	4	25.0%	4	25.0%	16	100.0%
3	Nagapattinam	2	12.5%	1	6.3%	4	25.0%	5	31.3%	4	25.0%	16	100.0%
4	Perambalur	2	12.5%	2	12.5%	4	25.0%	5	31.3%	3	18.8%	16	100.0%
5	Thanjavur	5	20.0%	2	8.0%	6	24.0%	7	28.0%	5	20.0%	25	100.0%
6	Tiruvannamalai	3	12.5%	2	8.3%	7	29.2%	8	33.3%	4	16.7%	24	100.0%
7	Tiruvarur	1	16.7%	0	.0%	2	33.3%	2	33.3%	1	16.7%	6	100.0%
8	Villupuram	6	13.6%	5	11.4%	11	25.0%	13	29.5%	9	20.5%	44	100.0%
Gender													
1	Male	14	14.9%	8	8.5%	22	23.4%	30	31.9%	20	21.3%	94	100.0%
2	Female	10	15.9%	7	11.1%	18	28.6%	17	27.0%	11	17.5%	63	100.0%
Designation													
1	Librarian	17	14.0%	11	9.1%	31	25.6%	37	30.6%	25	20.7%	121	100.0%
2	Asst. Librarian	4	22.2%	2	11.1%	5	27.8%	5	27.8%	2	11.1%	18	100.0%
3	Others	3	16.7%	2	11.1%	4	22.2%	5	27.8%	4	22.2%	18	100.0%
Overall													
	Total	24	15.3%	15	9.6%	40	25.5%	47	29.9%	31	19.7%	157	100.0%

10% to 25% of the respondents of different districts were indicated that the open access journals were very high quality. Similarly, 28% to 33.3% indicated high quality and 18.8% to 33.3% as somewhat quality. Very poor quality of open access journals ranges between 12.5% and 20%. Among them, 25% of respondents of Nagapattinam and Cuddalore indicated very high quality. It is followed by Villupuram (20.5%) and Thanjavur (20%). Similarly, 21.3% of male indicated very highly quality than female (17.5%). 22.2% of other library professionals indicated very high quality. It is followed by Librarian (20.7%) and Asst. Librarians (11.1%).

Speed of Access

The respondent's opinion on the speed of access to open access journals were obtained in a four-point scale such as slow, somewhat fast, fast and very fast and the same has been analyzed. The responses were shown in Table 14.

Table 14: Speed of Access of Open Access Journals

S. No	Description	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
1	Slow	24	15.3	15.3
2	Somewhat Fast	47	29.9	45.2
3	Fast	31	19.7	65.0
4	Very Fast	55	35.0	100.0
	Total	157	100.0	

Nearly 85% of respondents indicated somewhat fast to very fast towards the speed of access to open access journals. 35% of respondents indicated very fast in accessing the open access journals. It is followed by fast (19.7%) and somewhat fast (29.9%). Only 15.3% indicated slow in accessing the open access journals.

The study has further been extended to the district, gender, and designation. The same has been shown in Table 15.

Table 15: Speed of Access of Open Access Journals Vs District, Gender, Designation

S. No	Description	Slow		Somewhat Fast		Fast		Very Fast		Total	
Districts											
1	Ariyalur	3	30.0%	3	30.0%	1	10.0%	3	30.0%	10	100.0%
2	Cuddalore	2	12.5%	5	31.3%	4	25.0%	5	31.3%	16	100.0%
3	Nagapattinam	1	6.3%	4	25.0%	4	25.0%	7	43.8%	16	100.0%
4	Perambalur	2	12.5%	6	37.5%	3	18.8%	5	31.3%	16	100.0%
5	Thanjavur	6	24.0%	7	28.0%	4	16.0%	8	32.0%	25	100.0%
6	Tiruvannamalai	4	16.7%	7	29.2%	4	16.7%	9	37.5%	24	100.0%
7	Tiruvarur	0	.0%	1	16.7%	2	33.3%	3	50.0%	6	100.0%
8	Villupuram	6	13.6%	14	31.8%	9	20.5%	15	34.1%	44	100.0%
Gender											
1	Male	13	13.8%	27	28.7%	20	21.3%	34	36.2%	94	100.0%
2	Female	11	17.5%	20	31.7%	11	17.5%	21	33.3%	63	100.0%
Designation											
1	Librarian	17	14.0%	37	30.6%	25	20.7%	42	34.7%	121	100.0%
2	Asst. Librarian	4	22.2%	6	33.3%	2	11.1%	6	33.3%	18	100.0%
3	Others	3	16.7%	4	22.2%	4	22.2%	7	38.9%	18	100.0%
Overall											
	Total	24	15.3%	47	29.9%	31	19.7%	55	35.0%	157	100.0%

30% to 50% of the respondents of different districts were indicated that the speed of access to open access journals was very fast. Similarly, 10% to 33.3% indicated fast and 16.7% to 37.5% as somewhat fast. The speed of access to open access journals ranges between 0% and 30%. Among them, 50% of respondents of Tiruvarur and 43.8% of respondents of Nagapattinam indicated very fast. It is followed by Tiruvannamalai (37.5%), Villupuram (34.1%), Thanjavur (32%) Cuddalore and Perambalur (31.3%). Similarly, 36.2% of male indicated very fast than female (33.3%). 38.9% of other library professionals indicated very fast. It is followed by Librarian (34.7%) and Asst. Librarians (33.3%).

FINDINGS

The findings of the study were as follows

- The study was carried out with the objective to identify the Awareness; source of awareness, place of access, usability, sufficiency, quality and satisfaction over the speed of access to open access journals
- The questionnaires were distributed to the Library and Information Science professionals of 76 engineering institutions in eight districts such as Ariyalur; Cuddalore; Nagapattinam; Perambalur; Thanjavur; Tiruvannamalai; Tiruvarur and Villupuram. Nearly 210 questionnaires were distributed. Out of 210 distributed 157 responded and the response rate works out to 74.76%.
- Awareness of open access journal has been ascertained based on access, cite and publish. Nearly 78.3% of the respondent have accessed the open access journals. Similarly, 60.4% of respondents have cited open access journals in their publications and 36.3% of them published articles in open access journals.
- In the case of access, the percentage of access to open access journal ranges between 50 to 81.8%. Ariyalur (80.0%), Nagapattinam (81.3%), Perambalur (81.3%), Tiruvannamalai (83.3%) and Villupuram (81.8%) respondents access more open access journals. Female (82.5%) access more open access journal than male (75.5%). Asst. Librarian (88.9%) access more open access journals than other library professionals (77.8%) and Librarians (76.9%).
- In relation to the citation, the percentage of citation of open access journal ranges between 50 to 75%. Ariyalur (70.0%), Perambalur (75.0%), Tiruvannamalai (70.8%) and Villupuram (72.7%) respondents cite more open access journals. Tiruvarur (50%) respondents have least cited in open access journal. Female (74.6%) cite more open access journal than male (66.0%). Both Asst. Librarian (72.2%) and other library professionals (72.2%) cite more open access journals than the Librarians (68.6%).
- The publication of papers in open access journal ranges between 30 to 66.7%. Tiruvarur has a maximum of 66.7% respondents publish a paper in Open access journals. It is followed by Cuddalore and Perambalur (37.5%); Villupuram (36.4%); Thanjavur (36.0%) and Tiruvannamalai (33.3%). Ariyalur (30%) respondents has least published in open access journal. Female (38.1%) publish their papers more open access journal than male (35.1%). Asst. Librarian (38.9%) publish more papers in open access journals than Librarians (36.4%) and other library professionals (33.3%).
- Out of 157 respondents, 87 (55.4%) indicated that “through library” as their sources of awareness. It is followed by “Peers and Colleagues” (38, 24.2%) and “through guide” (32, 20.4%).
- 86 (54.8%) respondents indicated that they access in all three locations such as home, office, and library whereas “Library” (39, 24.8%) and “Home/Office” (32, 20.4%).
- Nearly 80% of respondents indicated the usability of open access journals as easy. Nearly 90% of respondents indicated little to highly satisfied with the sufficiency of open access journals.
- Nearly 75% of respondents indicated somewhat quality to very high quality of open access journals. Nearly 85% of respondents indicated somewhat fast to very fast towards the speed of access to open access journals.

CONCLUSIONS

The study was carried out with the objective to identify the Awareness; source of awareness, place of access, usability, sufficiency, quality and satisfaction over the speed of access of open access journals. The awareness on open access journals has been ascertained based on access, cited and published articles on open access journals. Nearly 78.3% of the respondent have accessed the open access journals. Similarly, 60.4% of respondents have cited open access journals in their publications and 36.3% of them published articles in open access journals.

In the case of the source of inspiration for open access journal were 87 (55.4%) indicated that “through library” as their sources of awareness. It is followed by “Peers and Colleagues” (38, 24.2%) and “through guide” (32, 20.4%). This study indicates that they access in all three locations such as home, office, and library besides “Library” and “Home/Office”. The usability of open access journals as easy and highly satisfies with the sufficiency of open access journals. The open access journals were of high quality. Similarly speed of accessing open access journals somewhat fast to very fast. Their exist awareness on open access journals has been ascertained based on access, cited and published articles on open access journals irrespective of the district, gender, and designation. Their exist uniform opinion on usability, sufficiency, quality and satisfaction over the speed of access of open access journals irrespective of the district, gender, and designation of the respondents. Thus the success of the use of open access journals were primarily depended on the prevailing mindset of the user.

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